

Jun-04-02

04:03pm

From: Energy & Commerce Committee

202-255-2896

T-954

P 002/006

F-306

MICHAEL BURAKE, FLORIDA
 JOE BARTON, TEXAS
 FRED UPTON, MICHIGAN
 CLIFF STEARNS, FLORIDA
 PAUL E. GILMORE, OHIO
 JAMES C. GREENWOOD, PENNSYLVANIA
 CHRISTOPHER BOY, CALIFORNIA
 NATHAN DEAL, GEORGIA
 RICHARD BARR, NORTH CAROLINA
 ED WHITFIELD, KENTUCKY
 GREG GANKE, IOWA
 CHARLIE NORWOOD, GEORGIA
 BARBARA CUBIN, WYOMING
 JOHN SHIMKUS, ILLINOIS
 HEATHER WILSON, NEW MEXICO
 JOHN B. SHADEG, ARIZONA
 CHARLES "DOC" FICKERING, MISSISSIPPI
 VITO FOSSELLA, NEW YORK
 ROY BLUNT, MISSOURI
 TOM DAVIS, VIRGINIA
 ED BRYANT, TENNESSEE
 ROBERT L. BISHOP, JR., MARYLAND
 STEVE BUYER, INDIANA
 GEORGE RADANOVICH, CALIFORNIA
 CHARLES F. BASS, NEW HAMPSHIRE
 JOSEPH R. PITTS, PENNSYLVANIA
 MARY BONO, CALIFORNIA
 GREG WALDEN, OREGON
 LEE TERRY, NEBRASKA
 ERNIE REICHER, KENTUCKY

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH CONGRESS

ORIGINAL

U.S. House of Representatives
 Committee on Energy and Commerce
 Washington, DC 20515-6115

W.J. "BILLY" TAUZIN, LOUISIANA,
 CHAIRMAN

June 4, 2002

JOHN D. DINGELL, MICHIGAN
 HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA
 EDWARD J. MARKEY, MASSACHUSETTS
 RALPH M. ABRAHAM, TEXAS
 RICK BOUCHER, VIRGINIA
 EDOLPHUS TOWNS, NEW YORK
 EDNA PALONE, JR., NEW JERSEY
 SHERROD BROWN, OHIO
 BART GORDON, TENNESSEE
 PETER DEUTSCH, FLORIDA
 BOBBY L. RUSH, ILLINOIS
 ANNA G. ESHOO, CALIFORNIA
 BART STUPAK, MICHIGAN
 EUST L. ENGEL, NEW YORK
 TOM SAWYER, OHIO
 ALBERT R. WYNN, MARYLAND
 GENE GREEN, TEXAS
 KAREN MCCARTHY, MISSOURI
 TED STRICKLAND, OHIO
 DIANA DUFFETTE, COLORADO
 THOMAS M. BARNETT, WISCONSIN
 B. LUTHER NEUNSIOTA
 LUIS CARP, CALIFORNIA
 MICHAEL J. DOYLE, PENNSYLVANIA
 CHRISTOPHER JOHN, LOUISIANA
 JAYE HARMAN, CALIFORNIA

DAVID V. MARVEN, AUC. STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
 Chairman
 Federal Communications Commission
 445 12th Street, S.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED

FEB - 5 2003

Federal Communications Commission
 Office of the Secretary

Dear Chairman Powell:

We *are* writing about the Federal Communication Commission's (the "Commission") rule which prohibits the common ownership of a broadcast station and a daily newspaper in the same market. otherwise known as the "newspaper/broadcast cross-ownership rule" (the "rule"). For the reasons indicated below, we support **repeal** of the rule, and we urge the Commission to expeditiously complete the rulemaking process it initiated in this **matter** last September.

Without a doubt, **there** have been **dramatic** changes in the media marketplace since 1975 when the rule **was** adopted by the Commission. As noted in the Commission's Order and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking last September, when the rule **was** first adopted, **there** were 7,785 radio stations, 952 television stations, three major broadcast **networks** (ABC, CBS, and NBC), cable television **systems** served 13 per cent of television households, direct broadcast satellite (DBS) providers **were** nonexistent, and the Internet **was** **not** commercially available.

Today, there are approximately 12,900 radio stations, 1,600 full power television stations, 2,390 low power television nations, and 230 **Class A** television stations. There **arc** now four major broadcast **networks** (ABC, CBS, NBC, and Fox), along with other **emerging** bmadcast **networks** (e.g., UPN and WB). Today, cable television **systems** serve approximately 70 **per** cent of television households (with over 200 video **programming** services available on such systems, including significant news programming). Today, DBS **is** serving approximately 15 per cent of multichannel video programming distribution (MVPD) households. Moreover, today, the Internet also has become a significant source of local and national news for **many** Americans.

No. of Copies rec'd
 List ABCDE

2

RECEIVED TIME JUN 4 3:56PM

PRINT TIME JUN 4 4:00PM

We believe this explosion of media sources should eliminate any concern regarding a lack of diversity of views in the marketplace and competition, which have been the principal justifications for the rule. Since initiating its rulemaking process last September, numerous broadcasters, trade associations, and public interest groups, along with more than 1400 individuals, have filed comments and reply comments in the proceeding. We would note that the vast majority of commenters advocate repeal of the rule.

In light of the foregoing, we believe repeal of the rule is long overdue, and we urge the Commission to complete its rulemaking as expeditiously as possible. We thank you for your attention to our views in this regard and look forward to your response detailing the Commission's progress on this front.

Sincerely,



W.J. "Billy" Tauzin

Chairman

Committee on Energy and Commerce



Fred Upton

Chairman

Subcommittee on Telecommunications
and the Internet